

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

volume 46 no.24

December 10, 2014

suggested donation \$0.50

As FERGUSON REBELS...

FERGUSON



NEW YORK



MULTI-RACIAL FIGHT BLASTS CAPITALISM

BALTIMORE



BOSTON



MINNEAPOLIS



OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

★Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue \$0.50. One Year: \$15. Six months: \$10. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, December 10, 2014. Volume 46, No. 24

Editorial

Paving the Way to War

Obama's Anti-Immigrant Reform



Barack Obama's latest immigration reform is a major step by the U.S. ruling class toward an eventual world war. In itself, the initiative is narrow and limited, a temporary reprieve from deportation for up to five million undocumented immigrants. But by bypassing Congress, Obama made an important statement. He is concentrating the power of the presidency, an essential prerequisite for pursuing broader international conflicts.

Obama's immigration plan springs out of the U.S. military's need to recruit masses of Latin, black, and Asian youth to fight imperialist wars in the Middle East and South Asia. (Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, who was seen as too weak in pushing for war, resigned under pressure on November 24.) The bosses' dilemma is that they also need to terrorize young people to try to weaken working-class resistance — hence the racist murders of Michael Brown in Ferguson, and, more recently, of Akai Gurley in Brooklyn (see page 8). The "tragedies" and "mistakes" and "accidents" committed by the

capitalists' killer cops are fundamental to the profit system. The rulers know that racism is their main tool to divide and intimidate the working class. Racism enables them to pay lower wages to black and Latin workers, and to immigrants in particular. Super-exploitation produces super-profits, and lowers standards for white workers as well.

The bosses' goal is to make life seem so hopeless that these unemployed youth see joining the military — and doing battle for Big Oil and the military/industrial profiteers — as their only option.

The insatiable drive for maximum profits lies at the root of all the evils of capitalism: racism, sexism, mass unemployment, poverty, sub-human wages and imperialist war. For workers to have a decent life, the entire system must be destroyed. This can be achieved only by winning hundreds of millions to the goal of communism, under the leadership of the international, revolutionary, communist Progressive Labor Party.

Deception by Deporter-in-Chief

His November 20 address notwithstanding, Obama remains the deporter-in-chief. In 2013, he deported a record 438,421 undocumented immigrants; his administration has expelled two million in all, a record pace. His new scheme grants a fleeting three years of "legality" to fewer than half the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. today.

Obama has tacked on various border enforcement measures that focus, as he put it, on "deporting felons, not families." But targeting "criminal aliens" has historically served as a pretext for draconian enforcement measures that promote anti-immigrant dragnets and force undocumented workers into poverty and exploitation... the expulsion machine will keep humming for the around six million that remain "deportable" (The Nation, 11/21/14).

In part, Obama's selective reprieve is designed to maintain immigrant workers' fear of challenging sub-minimum and unpaid wages. While the reform is touted as a boon for workers, it will actually accelerate racist deportations, arrests, and exploitation. Immigrant families will continue to be ripped apart, just as black families were under slavery in the U.S. These are the "family values" of capitalism.

Anti-worker motives also underlie Obama's promise of temporary residence to 3.5 million undocumented parents of U.S.-born children. U.S. war planners, their eyes fixed on an inevitable conflict with China and Russia, are delighted. According to Pentagon officials, "[The] order would remove a major obstacle currently barring children born in the U.S. to undocumented immigrants from joining the military...." (Military.com, 11/21/14). Obama's move boosts the U.S. mili-

Historically, the 11 million undocumented workers in the U.S. were led here by the U.S. bosses' exploitation of tens of millions in Latin America and worldwide. The capitalists' plundering of Central and South America has destroyed small-farmer economies and forced workers to migrate in the hope of improving their lives. Without super-profits from the poverty wages and miserable working conditions imposed on immigrant labor, the U.S. economy would be in an even deeper crisis than it is today.

In fact, immigrants have become the foundation for capitalism worldwide. The bosses welcome them when they serve capitalist needs and discard them when they are no longer sufficiently profitable.

Consider the source of the concept of "immigrant." The world's rulers create nation states and establish borders, mostly through war. When volatile economic conditions force workers to move from one nation to another, they automatically become immigrants — subject to all the ravages the bosses can heap upon them. Scapegoated for problems faced by "citizen" workers, the capitalists use immigrants as a tool to drum up nationalism and set workers in different nation-states against each other. Patriotism is nothing more than loyalty to the bosses' profit interests.

We workers are one international class, exploited by one system and by capitalists in every country. That is why communists say: "Workers of the world, unite!" and "Smash All Borders!" We fight for one united international working class led by one international communist party, the Progressive Labor Party. Our class has one flag — the red flag. Long will it wave!

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Hospital Workers Stand up to Bosses

CHICAGO — A hospital on the west side promotes itself as a “national model for urban health care delivery,” but is chronically understaffed. Understaffing and speeding up workers helps the bosses save money, but they also undercut the medical care workers provide to patients. Since most of the patient population is black and Latin in this part of Chicago, understaffing helps continue racist oppression. But workers here are fighting back!

A letter was circulated that explained how understaffing and a lack of equipment are risks to patient safety, and it requested that additional staff in the Respiratory Care Dept. be hired. Over sixty workers signed the letter, which was given to the chief operating officer and board of directors at their annual meeting.

The bosses were angry and embarrassed that workers dared to present grievances at their board meeting. They were more concerned about being exposed and humiliated than about the rotten conditions faced by workers and their patients every day. They subsequently decided to interview all the signatories to the letter and question each person as to

how inadequate staffing levels could be solved. Most workers responded by telling them to hire more workers.

It's no secret that the hospital is understaffed and lacks adequate equipment, but they wanted to frighten workers who signed the letter. Instead, they found out how passionately workers felt about patient care and the lack of staff. As a result, a couple of positions were opened, but many workers are doubtful that conditions will improve much, because of how bad things have been for so long. Yet workers have expressed approval for the bold action in confronting the bosses.

The workers' response to this struggle shows how workers can be organized to fight back against abuses. It is the job of the Progressive Labor Party to point out that the capitalist system is always abusive, and conditions will continue to worsen without a communist revolution. More workers are taking the Party's ideas more seriously. The more workers that read and distribute CHALLENGE, the closer we'll be to solving inadequate staffing and a lack of equipment.✱

CUNY Students Geared Up for Ferguson Verdict



THE BRONX, November 20 — One of the many capitalist lies that we are force-fed is that workers are essentially selfish and lazy, looking out for only ourselves. But we don't need to look far to see that despite the barrage of individualist ideas from the media and schools, workers are usually ready to stand together and fight back.

A multiracial group of 20 students and professors showed this capitalist lie for what it is at the Bronx Community College (BCC) today. Led by Progressive Labor Party, and a campus club of mainly black and Latin students, the group demonstrated against the racist murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and the disappearances of 43 students in Guerrero, Mexico. Every student left with a copy of CHALLENGE and some even signed up to travel to Ferguson!

In response to “natural” (read: caused by capitalist inequalities and racism) disasters or racist police murders, we can witness solidarity among workers at an international level. The bosses' biggest lie, that workers can't run society and communism can't work, is laid bare in these situations.

We marched in front of the campus and down University Avenue, chanting “Hey, hey, ho, ho, racist cops have got to go!” and “How do you spell racist? N-Y-P-D!” In fact, many of the chants were about the racist NYPD, which speaks to another truth that workers and students know: cops in New York are the same as cops in Ferguson, in Chicago, in Mexico: racist, vicious, and ready to kill workers and students. Passersby nodded

their heads, honked their horns in solidarity, and took CHALLENGE.

Rely Only on the Working Class

No one in the crowd was from Missouri or Mexico or knew Mike Brown or any of the missing students. But here was the solidarity of workers that emerges all over the world. The attack is on the same class everywhere. We felt compelled to march because, as one speaker put it, we know that only we the working class can make change. The cops aren't going to do it, the politicians aren't going to do it. It's up to students and workers. Some spoke of being optimistic, despite our relatively small numbers. “This is just the beginning,” said one speaker. “Every big movement started out small,” said another.

A professor reported about a concurrent demonstration at Hostos Community College, another City University New York. This Hostos rally was held after professors heard about the boldness of students at BCC. Everyone agreed that we would be ready to demonstrate again the day of the grand jury's verdict about whether or not to indict Darren Wilson.

This club, full of revolutionary potential, is an incubator for the kind of fightback that we need to build a communist movement. The key to winning is to organize black, Latin, and immigrant students on campus, those who bear the brunt of the bosses' attacks. PLP is working to bring more and more students around to see that the fight has just begun, and that abolishing racism means abolishing capitalism.✱

Forum: Students and Workers Must Fight Racism

NEWARK, NJ, November 16 — Forty students and workers organized by PLP gathered in a church to plan a fightback once the grand jury decision is announced for racist killer kkkop Darren Wilson. This is the second gathering that we have held since September on this issue and mobilize our friends to hit the streets against these racist attacks.

Our attendance doubled since the September event, and we heard more workers talk about “the system” rather than just individual cops and politicians. Our job is to struggle with workers to realize that “the system” is capitalism, and that the only way to defeat it is through communist revolution.

After a socializing hour, a series of speakers illustrated the importance of fighting these racist attacks as well as the potential to win many to communist ideas along the way. The first speaker gave an overview of the attacks on black and Latin workers under capitalism. From the prison industrial complex to police murder, the speaker showed how anti-black racism has increased in this “post-racial era.”

KKKapitalism Killed Kyam, Mike

The second speaker, Anita Neal, mother of Kyam Livingston, gave a passionate speech about how the racist NYPD murdered her daughter and the struggle in the fight against the state. This struggle has taught her that the entire system needs to change, and that the fight for all young people, not just her daughter, is a fight we all need to be involved in — from police murder to the racist educational system.

A third speaker gave an eyewitness account about the struggle in Ferguson. While detailing the daily fights between the protestors and cops, he talked about the lessons that he derived from this struggle and the potential for many of these workers to be won to communist ideas.

Detailing one of his conversations with young protestors in Ferguson, he discussed the concept of communist revolution. He recalled how many of the young protestors want to change “the system” but are still struggling over the idea of communist revolution. His speech highlighted the militancy of the youth in Ferguson and how they are continuously fighting back against these attacks.

The event shows both the strengths and weaknesses of the working class at this point in the class struggle. While we are hearing more workers talk about police murder and the mass incarceration of black and Latin workers, it also shows that we have a lot of work to do to win workers to see that without a communist analysis, we will never win. For example, the election of Ras Baraka in Newark spreads the illusion that workers have power under capitalism (see CHALLENGE 11/26). Even if Darren Wilson were to be convicted of murder, there will be more young black men killed by the cops.

Many of us in New Jersey made plans inside of our mass organizations to hit the streets the night that the verdict for Darren Wilson is announced. Many other organizations are planning demonstrations for the day after. We know that there is going to be a lot of anger regardless of the verdict. Our job is to turn that anger against Wilson and other racist cops into anger at a system that kills, imprisons, and exploits all workers — especially black and Latin workers. We must name that system: CAPITALISM.✱



LA Students: ‘Chant Down the Walls’

LOS ANGELES, November 6 — Nearly one hundred students participated in forums to discuss the mass deportations of immigrant workers under the Obama administration. It was organized at University of California Los Angeles and a nearby Cal State University. This discussion took place in the build-up to Obama’s announcement of an executive order to grant approximately five million undocumented immigrants a temporary reprieve from deportations. Students from the Progressive Labor Party participated in these discussions and are building a base for the Party’s ideas among other students. This includes inviting Ezell Ford’s (25-year-old black man killed by the cops on August 11) family to speak at a future event on campus to discuss how students can build a multiracial response to racist police terror.

The main speaker at the campus forums argued that mass deportations and the building of a police state are symptoms of capitalism in crisis and the need for compliant, flexible and disposable labor, both U.S. urban centers and in Latin America. PL students drew the connection between the racist killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and the police terror experienced by immigrant families fearing deportation.

From Debate to Demonstration

In the weeks following these forums, PL students involved in im-

migrant rights groups have helped organize regular weekly protests. They “chanted down the walls” outside of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Detention Center demanding the release of undocumented immigrants being processed for deportation. As protestors rally outside the detention center, immigrant workers who can be seen through their cell windows wave back. Last week, students connected the fight against anti-immigrant racism to solidarity actions in support of the 43 Ayotzinapa college students who were disappeared. An outdoor teach-in and rally was held on campus. Later that day students participated in a mass mobilization of approximately 500 people who occupied 6th street in front of the Mexican Consulate and McArthur Park in solidarity with Ayotzinapa.

Connecting the racist policing of immigrant workers, black youth and our working-class sisters and brothers in Mexico is critical during this period. We need to encourage students and workers to fight against the oppression of global capitalism, as exemplified by the working class in Ferguson and Ayotzinapa. As we continue to build the Party, our abilities to move masses of workers into battle against the root of the oppression in both places will bring the day when we can abolish racism and borders for good!✊

President Obama’s Anti-Immigrant Reform

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tary-age population by around one million, a significant plus for ruling-class strategists.

As he eases entry for select groups, Obama is following the script in a 2011 RAND study, “Global Demographic Change and Its Implications for Military Power.” As RAND, a war-oriented think tank bankrolled by both the federal government and private-sector imperialists noted, “A full-fledged intervention by one state into another is ill-advised for countries that lack the requisite manpower.” But the U.S. also enjoys substantial advantages, including “size, affluence, high immigration levels, and...birthrate.” Obama’s “Open Door” cynically targets immigrant youth and workers, particularly those from Mexico, to kill and die in the next big war.

Obama Skirts Congress, Showing Rulers’ Disarray

The end run around Congress reveals the disarray and fragmentation of the U.S. ruling class. Obama’s ability to pull it off shows the continued dominance of the finance-capital wing of U.S. imperialism, a faction led by the Rockefellers, ExxonMobil and JPMorgan Chase. For these mega-capitalists, Congress plays a critical role in fooling workers into believing they have “a voice in government.”

But Congress can also be obstructive. It gives voice to smaller bosses who think their profits don’t depend on U.S. control of Iraqi oil or U.S. readiness to confront China and Russia. Almost any multi-millionaire with an open checkbook — like car alarm salesman Darrell Issa or exterminator Tom DeLay — can rise to a seat in the House of Representatives. So can protégés of the billionaire Koch brothers or casino baron Sheldon Adelson, whose profits come mostly from domestic exploitation.

For now, however, the bigger bosses behind Obama have undercut these small fry with the “executive action” on immigration. Republicans may denounce Obama as a “prince,” and a “dictator,” but they are out-shouted by the top capitalists’ vast media apparatus. In the New York Times and on network television, there is almost nothing but praise for Obama’s unilateral, war-enabling, “humanitarian” action.

For all workers, regardless of where they happen to have been born, the only solution to capitalist exploitation is a communist revolution. That is why we ask you to join and build Progressive Labor Party and help us free our class from the murderous, profiteering bosses.✊

This Whole Damn System — Shut It Down!



Protest erupt across 37 states and over 170 U.S. cities. Ferguson demonstrations spread to London, UK. Workers across the Middle East, particularly Palestine, expressed solidarity with Ferguson rage against racist police terror.



Capitalism Kills From Mexico to Ferguson Solidarity From NYC to San Francisco



SAN FRANCISCO, CA — In solidarity with rebellions in Mexico, over 400 workers and students marched in San Francisco's main commercial center. PLP members joined the demonstration with signs and flyers linking State Terrorism in Mexico to the systematic, state-sponsored racist imprisonment and murder of black and Latin youth in the U.S.

PLP is organizing for another demonstration on Dec. 3 to build international working-class unity. The crowd was

mainly young and Latin without delegations from "traditional" non-governmental organizations or immigrant-oriented unions.

There is no "democracy." There is no justice — there's just us, the working class. Only a revolution against capitalism will get these murderers out of power. That is the goal of the communist Progressive Labor Party. Join us! ☘

NEW YORK CITY, November 21 — "Ayotzinapa vive, vive, la lucha sigue, sigue!" (Ayotzinapa: lives, lives! The struggle continues, continues!) So chanted over 100 black, white, Asian, and Latin workers picketing at the Mexican consulate with signs linking the police murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri to the murder of 43 students in Ayotzinapa, Mexico in a loud and spirited demonstration. This event was the product of weeks of planning and organization by professors, students and other members of the Progressive Labor Party, who organized through their participation in several different mass organizations. By linking the struggle in Ayotzinapa with the struggle in Ferguson, PLers and friends exposed capitalism as the root cause of the murders in both places and called for internationalism as the answer.

Organizing to Fight

PLers organized in multiple mass organizations to build for this demonstration:

PLP educators in one union sent comrades in a different union a copy of the resolution which they had attempted to pass, calling for teachers to come to the November 21 demonstration at the consulate. PLP students and teachers then discussed the rally in their classes and with their coworkers, helping guarantee the makeup of the rally to include black and Asian youth as well.

At another teacher's union monthly meeting, a PLer managed to get the resolution placed on the day's agenda, including a call for the leadership to invite the entire membership, which amounts to tens of thousands of workers. While some union misleaders attempted to bait the members with thinly veiled anti-communism, it did not sway the membership and it passed unanimously.

PLP members spoke in three different union committees calling for solidarity with the 43 kidnapped and murdered students in Ayotzinapa. We exposed the connection between the government, police, the army and drug cartels there. We connected the racist attacks in Mexico to racist

police terror in Ferguson, Missouri to Brooklyn, and Staten Island, New York to applause from members and friends of the group.

PLers and our friends who meet in a study group translated and distributed 200 flyers in various meetings. One comrade used the leaflet in English class to talk in English about the protest and to invite interested students to a discussion after class. Another comrade from Mexico described the history of rural schools for teachers like the one in Ayotzinapa which has a long history of revolutionary struggle in farming areas.

In one community organization, we worked hard and enthusiastically. As a result, 25 people of all ages came to the protest with signs they made. They also chanted and leafleted. It's ties like the ones we are building at our jobs and community organizations that give us the opportunity to know many people over a long period of time and win more of them to internationalism and other elements of our analysis, even though illusions about reforming the system persist.

March and Build for Internationalism

The bullhorn was kept hidden in a bag until it was time for speeches. One speech in Spanish portrayed how corrupt the Mexican government is. Another speaker from PLP linked the whole murder to capitalism and imperialism, and the increasing attacks on the working class; the cartels are a key part of capitalism. The final speech was from a professor who had just returned from the protests in Mexico. She discussed how inspiring they were and how they sparked a great amount of rage. PLP will continue to build our Party in the midst of the struggles in Mexico and the U.S.

One union misleader showed up and made sure to get a photo opportunity with the protest as the background. But it was the collective organization of PLP that gave leadership to the protest and distributed hundreds of leaflets and over 100 CHALLENGES.

Returning to our neighborhood the participants were

upbeat and eager to continue the struggle. To reach hundreds more with the message that only communist revolution could end the constant misery of fascist disappearances of young people, some members and friends plan to read a message in their churches in order to call for plans to show solidarity and support for the struggle to build resistance and communist revolution in Mexico. ¡La lucha sigue! ☘

MEXICO CITY — The murder and disappearance of our 43 student-teachers in the the Raúl Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers' College of Ayotzinapa that have shocked workers worldwide is the product of a capitalist system that has nothing to offer our youth. The massive protests in Mexico show that this crime is a painful thorn stuck in the heart of the international working class. The murders indicate the increasing development of fascism in Mexico, where in addition to using liberal misleaders and electoral politics to control the working class, the bosses rely increasingly on open violence and terror. Only under a system where exploitation has been eliminated — communism — will we ever have justice and an end to fascist police terror. We must not expect justice from the same capitalist state that murders our youth!

Guerrero is predominantly rural and one of the poorest states in Mexico, with a long tradition of insurgent movements. For this reason the ruling class has set up in this state a sophisticated repressive apparatus involving the police, the military and drug lords. These groups, some of them trained and financed by the U.S. with support of the local Mexican bosses, are responsible for the murder and disappearance of our youth.

According to the World Bank, 60 percent of youth in the world lack education and job opportunities. In Mexico that number is 70 percent. Conditions for the remaining youth are not much better: existing jobs are precarious, with miserable salaries, no benefits, long and exhausting work hours, with some working 12-hour days, seven days a week. Mexico is one of the countries in which the working class works the most hours per year.

The electoral political parties would have us believe that the local mayor of the town of Iguala, José Luis Abarca, the Governor of Guerrero state Angel Aguirre, or President Peña are the ones responsible for the disappearances, and that if we get rid of them and elect different politicians, all our problems would be solved. That's a lie! They will not lead the working class to overthrow the capitalist system because they serve it. Capitalism killed and disappeared our youth, and for that we must destroy it.

For decades, rural teachers have earned the sympathy of the working class because of their commitment to educating working-class youth in these impoverished communities. For this reason the bosses of liberal NGO Mexicanos Primero and the capitalist media like Televisa and TV Azteca have publicly accused rural schools of being "guerrilla training places" that must be eliminated. But the real aim of this campaign was the approval of the lucrative education reform, which will generate huge profits from turning education into more of a commodity and which will benefit the groups promoting it.

Ayotzinapa is Mexico's Ferguson

Ayotzinapa is not an isolated case of police terror. Countless number of unarmed black and Latin youth are killed by the police from Ayotzinapa to Ferguson, Missouri. On the other side of the world, immigrants in many European countries face mass deportations and are terrorized and massacred by the police.

The top imperialists in the world, the U.S., China, Russia, and the European Union, are preparing for world war, and aim to push our youth to fight their war. We workers must win our youth to fight against the capitalist system which can only offer working-class youth oppression, unemployment, and death. We must win them to become organized in our international communist party, the Progressive Labor Party, to lead a communist revolution to put an end to fascism, capitalist oppression and war. ☘



LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Conference Builds New Fighters

I walked in during the keynote speech. It was powerful. After awhile we were split into groups, began our workshop and discussed fascism. We learned that the victims of it and its cause and effect all comes down to capitalism. Then we discussed the solution — communism — and how to build a base. After lunch we all gathered and watched clips from Ferguson and talked about the significance of it and heard stories from people who had gone. Then we organized our march. With signs and catchy chants, we proceeded through Harlem, eventually making contact with the police. But we kept going.

★★★★

Fear is an instrument that suppresses the working class. As a tool of control, it can cause workers to feel isolated and powerless.

The mere chant and shout of defiance allowed the people of Harlem — every day men and women who struggle to survive — a brief, refreshing view of defiance and courage. It was heartening to have my fellow comrades side by side shout out to the ruling class and to the cops who attempted to disperse our rally. You saw people, everyday people peering out from the crowd, with curiosity, confusion, and hopefully the light of inspiration.

Fear is merely a tool. Some of us were very afraid to rally today, but in order to travel toward our destination, a worker-run society, we have to take the step. Courage and heart is the key.

It was inspiring to take that step to every day workers.

In struggle, in humanity, in love, in communism.

★★★★

Today was the first time I've ever done anything or come out to an event with PL. During the workshops I learned a lot more about what communism is and about what communists believe in. I did not know what to expect coming to the conference but I did enjoy myself and learn a lot. At the march I felt really empowered, I admit I felt very nervous when I saw the first cop lights flash but everyone kept going so I tried following them. I was quick to think the worst was going to happen but we weren't doing anything wrong.

★★★★

This was my first experience in a Progressive Labor Party rally. I felt excited and glad to be a part of something that really hits some of the problems that the U.S. has — racism, and working-class oppression. I've re-educated myself on fascism and how the U.S. is becoming more of a fascist country.

We marched in Harlem to protest on behalf of belief in equality for everyone. No more should anyone be oppressed based on their "race," religion, or sex. We are the change that needs to be made here, and we will be heard.

★★★★

Today was very influential. I've never participated in a communist movement. It felt good to be a part of a positive cause. The previous movements I've seen did not go well. Because of the violence between the police and the community I was initially fearful the same outcome would happen. But surprisingly, no violence and unnecessary actions took place. I felt really safe around my group members.

★★★★

I've been to past rallies; however I have never felt so scared as when I rallied in NY. It was cool.

★★★★

Each rally is always different. It is the reason I get excited to yell and scream and make some noise. I want to let fascist police, bosses, and also other workers know that our presence is here. It's my motivation to continue and participate in PLP. Down with capitalism!

★★★★

Today I experienced my first march. I felt very empowered and scared. It was a fun experience. I thought I was going to get arrested and it made me think of how people stay strong even if the police are there.

★★★★

Speaking as one who is now designated a "veteran," I must say I was pleased and proud at the recent student conference. The young people leading our struggle are smart and committed. The multiracial character of the conference indicated that, unlike most so-called left political formations emerging from the 1960s, PLP has really succeeded in generating a young leadership that does not just preach, but actually embodies the necessity of fighting racism. The key role played at all levels by young women shows, too, that we take the fight against sexism very seriously. And the dedication manifested in the work in Ferguson shows that our young leaders are energetic and bold.

I do, however, have a couple of points of criticism, one tactical, one theoretical.

First, the march undertaken during the conference should have been better planned and carried out; a couple of times the marchers needlessly taunted the police in locales where large numbers of us could have been arrested. And while at times it is worthwhile — even good — to get arrested, this was not one of those times, with so many of the marchers being from out of town.

Second, while my afternoon workshop showed that a number of student comrades are doing skillful political work, my morning workshop was pretty weak on its analysis of what fascism actually is, as well as of why communism is its only antidote. The relation of fascism to the political economy of capitalism was not discussed; and at times it seemed that the word "communism" was being invoked in a quasi-magical kind of way. More concrete analysis is needed of what is wrong with capitalism — why it cannot imaginably meet the needs of most people on the planet — and of its connection to fascism. Whether or not the Party believes that we are, at least in the USA, "in" a state of fascism was not discussed with enough rigor.

These points of criticism point to ways in which we need to grow and develop. But the conference indicated that we are well positioned to do so. We have a world to win.

★★★★

Today I experienced my first march. I felt very empowered and scared. It was a fun experience. I thought I was going to get arrested and it made me think of how people stay strong even if the police are there. After this I am not sure if I want to experience this again.



Lesson Learned From a History of War: Fight for Communism

The murderous Great War ended 96 years ago. To overestimate the impact of this war upon world history might be impossible. It was by far the bloodiest war in history until that time.

The slaughter horrified even those many patriots who had anticipated it and celebrated when it began.

The Great War was pure imperialism — capitalist slaughter for empire and territory. There were no purposes that could remotely be called morally redeeming.

It wasn't for "freedom," whatever that means, or for "national self-determination," or for an end to colonialism, or against racism or brutality. All these notions mask the fact that the Second World War was imperialist. No such ideological excuses can hide that the Great War was over the division of the earth, a war for, not against, subordination, colonialism, and empire.

It was a war among "democracies" — in that Germany was no less "democratic" than the United Kingdom (both were parliamentary monarchies) or, monarchy aside, than the United States.

The Great War led millions of people worldwide to seriously question or even reject "patriotism" as a cover-up for capitalist and imperialist rule.

This massive revulsion against imperialist slaughter and the misery it brought to the vast majority of the peoples of the world inspired social and political progress. The Russian Revolution and the international communist movement; the militancy of organized labor; the certainty that a better world than capitalism, imperialism, and the devastation they produce must be possible.

The Great War was an event with mighty lessons for all of us today. No wonder it is neglected, largely forgotten. Those lessons were dynamite in 1918, and still are.

Today I remember my great-un-

cle George Devine, a veteran and a victim of the Great War.

I never knew him. He went off to war at the age of 17 or 18. In 1918, he returned "shell-shocked", driven insane by the stress and shock of trench warfare. He never recovered.

My late mother remembers him living with her and her parents for brief periods in the 1920s. But then he had to return to the Veterans Administration hospital for brain injuries at Perry Point, MD, where he lived the rest of his life. He died there on January 31, 1941.

Poor young man! His whole bright future at the age of 17 ruined forever!

And not to defend his country, or any noble ideal at all. To save J.P. Morgan & Sons, and other U.S. banks, whose huge loans to the United Kingdom would have been lost if Germany had won the war.

My late grandmother, his only sibling, could never speak of her younger brother George without weeping. Not wishing to cause her distress, we never asked her about him. And now it is far, far too late.

I remember him today, on the 96th anniversary of the end of the war that ruined his life.

Yet he was but one of millions of young men, and tens of millions of men, women, and children the world around whose lives were blasted by that terrible, imperialist war.

For me, great-uncle George stands in for all of them — all the people killed by wars for exploitation, for the enrichment of the few at huge cost to the many.

And I prefer to believe this: As long as I, we, learn the lessons of the Great War, and struggle for a world of justice, free of exploitation, free of capitalism, free of inequality — great-uncle George, and the myriad of those like him throughout the history of the awful 20th century, did not die entirely in vain.

A loving communist nephew

Smash Bosses' State Power

continued from page 8

erick Engels pointed out in 1884, the state "is a product of society at a certain stage of development; it is the admission that this society has become entangled into irreconcilable antagonisms which it is powerless to dispel" (*The Origin of the Family, Private Property and State*).

Capitalism is a society based on exploitation, accumulation of profit, and private property. The modern state developed to protect the capitalists' interests. Contrary to liberal misleaders like Barack Obama, the "democratic process" cannot possibly resolve the antagonisms within capitalist society. The state is no neutral player. While it appears to regulate conflicts from above the fray, its role is to ensure business as usual, regardless of how many workers' lives are destroyed.

Leading up to the grand jury decision, every media outlet and politician preached non-violence and restraint. Yet racist Missouri Governor Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency a full week before! Nixon has deployed 2,200 National Guard troops in Ferguson. Riot police are firing tear gas canisters, stun grenades, and beanbag munitions at protesters.

Under capitalism, "non-violence" means the working class accepts violence by the state and is not allowed to retaliate.

From Slave Patrols to Killer Cops

Legalized killings and mass imprisonment are age-old capitalist tools to control the working class. The first modern police force in what is now the United States, beginning in South Carolina in 1704, was the slave patrol. These forces hunted down and punished runaway and "defiant" slaves; they were a form of organized terror to deter revolts that might threaten plantation profits.

The original Ku Klux Klan was formed in 1865, just after the end of the Civil War. As Eric Foner noted in *Reconstruction, America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877*, "In effect, the Klan was a military force serving the interests of the Democratic party, the planter class, and

all those who desired restoration of white supremacy." In the mid-20th century, according to historian Diane McWhorter, the Klan formed alliances with governors' administrations in states like Alabama and Mississippi. Throughout the South and Midwest, Klan members and local cops (often the same people) conspired to attack and murder civil rights activists.

Darren Wilson in the KKK?

So it's not surprising that the so called cyber-activist group Anonymous has found evidence — reportedly from a mole connected to the St. Louis County Police — that links Darren Wilson to the Traditionalist American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Or that three high-ranking members of the TAK KKK recently attended a support rally for Wilson in Imperial, Missouri — the hometown of Wilson's wife, a fellow Ferguson police officer.

To this day, state-sanctioned racist terror against black workers and youth is an indispensable weapon for the capitalist class.

- In 1991 in Los Angeles, a gang of five cops beat Rodney King while other cops watched.
- In 1997 in New York City, a cop assaulted Abner Louima by shoving a broken broomstick up his rectum.
- In 2005 in New Orleans, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, a cop murdered Henry Glover before his fellow cops burned Glover's body.
- In 2012 and 2013 in Brooklyn, the cops killed Ramarley Graham, Shantel Davis and 16-year-old Kimani Gray, all without a single indictment.

According to the latest figures from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, black workers and youth account for 50 percent of the approximately 2 million people in U.S. prisons and jails, or about four times their percentage of the general population. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, black people in the U.S. are incarcerated at about six times the rate of white people.

The problem with capitalist injustice isn't about "a

few bad cops" or a few obviously racist prosecutors like McCulloch. The state apparatus is racist to its core, because racism is the lifeblood of capitalism. Bosses keep the working class divided by perpetuating racist ideology. Economic super-exploitation of immigrant workers pits them against black, Latin, and women workers, which in turn drives down the wages of all, including white and male workers.

As the sharpening global competition between U.S. and rival imperialists cuts into the bosses' profit rates, racist attacks against workers are escalating. An economic crisis spells mass unemployment, budget cuts in education and healthcare, tuition hikes — and more killer cops. The capitalists need cutbacks to funnel their resources into the bigger wars to come. In their run-up to global combat, they are turning schools into jails with surveillance cameras and metal detectors. Their police are occupying black and Latin working-class neighborhoods. They are spying on and detaining Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian youth.

Why are they doing these things? To intimidate workers and discourage our fightback. The bosses fear that workers are fed up and won't take their oppression much longer.

Revolution is Non-Negotiable

We didn't negotiate out of slavery and we won't negotiate our way out of capitalism. From slave patrols to the hyper-militarized cops of today, the bosses' state is the sworn enemy of the working class. The youth in Ferguson are rejecting passivity and dead-end electoral distractions. The capitalist state cannot be reformed — it must be abolished with communist revolution. For that we need organized, revolutionary violence. Under the communist leadership of the Progressive Labor Party, the movement in Ferguson can be the beginning of an all-out fight toward revolution.

From Gaza to Ferguson to Guerrero, Mexico — smash racism! Smash the capitalist state!☺



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Profits and poverty, not lack of food, causes hunger [what will end poverty? Communism]

NYT, 11/12 — ...Debunking the idea that we need to grow more food...so we can feed the nine billion...anticipated global population by 2050:...[the] problem...is not production levels; it's money. There are no hungry people with money; there isn't a shortage of food.... There is...a I-[can't]-afford-to-buy-food problem....

Poverty...and hunger aren't matters of bad luck.... [but] of displacing [traditional farmers]...appropriating their water, energy and mineral resources, and even producing cash crops for export while reducing the people growing the food to menial and hungry laborers on their own land....

There is...the virtually unregulated food system that is geared toward making money rather than feeding people....

The solution...isn't to produce more food. The solution is to eliminate poverty.

...The most agriculturally productive country in the world, the United States...[has] the highest percentage of hungry people of any developed nation....

...Millions of small-scale farmers...are themselves among the hungry. The rest of the hungry are underpaid or unemployed workers....Boosting yields does nothing for them.

So we should not be asking, "How will we feed the world?" but "How can we...end poverty?" Claiming that increasing yield would feed the poor is like saying that producing more...private jets would guarantee that everyone had one....

[The] slogan should not be "let's feed the world," but "let's end poverty."

No poverty for Al Sharpton — buddy of Obama, de Blasio and major corporations — clean\$ up while owing million\$

NYT, 11/19 — The Rev. Al Sharpton...stood...at the Four Seasons restaurant...wrapped in a finely tailored suit, as men in power lined up to exclaim their admiration for him....in honor of Mr. Sharpton's 60th birthday....

Mayor Bill de Blasio and Governor Andres Cuomo hailed him as a civil rights icon. President Obama sent... a message commending Mr. Sharpton's "dedication to the righteous cause of perfecting our union." Major corporations sponsored the lavish affair....

"I've been able to reach from the streets to the suites," he said....

Obscured in his ascent, however, has been his troubling financial past.... [not to mention his role as an FBI informer — Ed. Note]

Mr. Sharpton has regularly sidestepped...obligations most people see as inevitable, like taxes, rent and other bills....Records...show more than \$4.5 million in current state and federal tax liens against him and his for-profit businesses....

...His National Action Network appears to have been sustained for years by not paying federal payroll taxes on its employees.

With the tax liability outstanding, Mr. Sharpton traveled first class and collected a sizeable salary, the kind of practice by non-profit groups...characterized as "abusive," or potentially criminal"....

Mr. Sharpton and the National Action Network have repeatedly failed to pay travel agencies, hotels and landlords....intermingling its finances with his own to cover his daughters' private school tuition....

Mr. Sharpton's newly found insider status represents a potential financial boon for him....

The...National Action Network...picked up expenses from Mr. Sharpton's presidential bid: \$181,115 in consulting and other costs....The group also faced court

judgments for several hundred thousand dollars in unpaid office rent and hotel bills....

In 2009, when the group still owed \$1.1 million in overdue payroll taxes, Mr. Sharpton began collecting a salary of \$250,000 from National Action Network.... Much of [its] revenue appears to be from large corporate sponsors....

Mr. Sharpton said his birthday party grossed about \$1 million....

U.S., Canada, Ukraine reject anti-Nazi UN condemnation

NYT, 11/22 — UN General Assembly's Third Committee passed a...resolution condemning attempts to glorify Nazism ideology and denial of German Nazi war crimes. The U.S., Canada and Ukraine were the only countries to vote against it.

The resolution...passed...by 115 votes against three, with 55 nations abstaining....[and] voiced concern over the rise of racism-driven crimes around the world....[It] decried attempts to whitewash Nazi collaborators by depicting them as fighters of nationalist resistance movements and honoring them as such.

It condemned any form of denial of Nazi war crimes, including the Jewish Holocaust....

...Delegations from EU member states abstained in the vote.

Protesters burn Mexican president's party office

NYT, 11/12 — Teachers and students protesting the abduction and apparent murder of 43 college students in September set fire...to the headquarters of President Enrique Peña Nieto's Party in Guerrero State. The protesters, who clashed with the police over several hours, at one point detained the state security chief....A number of demonstrations have erupted since Friday, when federal officials said they had found buried remains that may be those of the missing students. Witnesses have... [said] the students were abducted by the police and turned over to a drug gang that killed them.

Smash Bosses' State Power!



The shantel Davis committee, friends, and PLP protest murder of Akai Gurley

What is the State?

The state is an organ of class rule, an organ for the oppression of one class by another; it is the creation of "order," which legalizes and perpetuates this oppression by moderating the conflict between classes...

The liberation of the oppressed class is impossible not only without a violent revolution, but also without the destruction of the apparatus of state power which was created by the ruling class...

A democratic republic is the best possible political shell for capitalism, and, therefore, once capital has gained possession of this very best shell..., it establishes its power so securely, so firmly, that no change of persons, institutions or parties in the bourgeois-democratic republic can shake it.

—The State and Revolution by Vladimir Lenin

The multiracial rebellion in Ferguson serves as an inspiration for workers everywhere. In the aftermath of the indictment, masses of anti-racists around the world are demonstrating in solidarity. The youth in the streets understand that they cannot wait for "justice" under the same system that killed Mike Brown. We commend these antiracist fighters in Ferguson for rejecting the bosses' false promises. Many of them have come to see that capitalist "democracy" is a fake veneer for the rot of capitalist exploitation. Their growing understanding marks an important advance for the international working class.

Anti-black racism is at the foundation of the racist treatment and division of all workers. Black workers are hit the hardest, and black workers will lead the fight to smash this murderous system. Ferguson has set a new standard for U.S. workers' fightback. As black workers in Missouri rebel, the entire world watches and follows their lead. Ferguson has inspired mass demonstrations in Mexico, Haiti, Colombia, and many other countries.

State Power Rules

This is what capitalist democracy looks like: Michael Brown was shot six times by Ferguson kkkop Darren Wilson. Steered by the St. Louis County prosecutor, Robert McCulloch, a grand jury decided on no indictment. Wilson got away with racist murder because he was backed by the racist injustice system. Cops, courts, prosecutors, and juries — the whole state apparatus — are all controlled by the bosses. Consider:

In almost every case, murders by cops are completely legal. McCulloch is now batting 0-for-5 in getting indictments against cops who shot unarmed civilians (Daily Kos, 11/25/14). In Houston, grand juries haven't indicted one cop since 2004; in Dallas, over a five-year period, grand juries looked at 81 cop shootings and returned one indictment (Daily Kos, 11/24/14).

Meanwhile, 14 teenagers — at least six of them black — have been killed by the Klan-in-blue since Michael Brown was gunned down in cold blood three months ago (The Daily Beast, 11/25/14).

Meanwhile, federal data shows that black teenagers are 21 times more likely than white teenagers to be shot and killed by police (ProPublica, 10/10/14).

Meanwhile, 12-year-old Tamir Rice was shot dead by a cop outside a Cleveland recreation center — for waving a toy pellet gun.

After more than a hundred days of national fightback since Michael Brown's murder, how is it that racist kkkop Wilson is free to kill again without even a public trial? The answer is state power — and who holds it.

Under capitalism, the "state" — including all levels of government, the so-called justice system, the police, the military, the schools, and the media — is an instrument of ruling-class oppression and violence against the working class. As Fred-

Continued on page 7

NYPD Racism Murdered Akai Gurley

BROOKLYN, November 22 — A crowd of angry workers formed in front of the Pink Houses project in East New York to protest the racist police killing of yet another black working-class youth. On November 20, kkkop Peter Liang of the New York Police Department shot and killed 28-year-old Akai Gurley, an event NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton deemed a "bizarre mistake." Gurley had just entered the building's dark stairwell (the bosses don't care enough to keep the lights or elevators working in these projects), and Liang shot him.

But nobody was accepting police excuses. The rally began on a poisonous note, with reactionary nationalist ideology. A black nationalist group on the bullhorn led chants: "Which peo-

ple? Black people. What power? Black power!" Some protesters even questioned why white workers had shown up to the march at all!

But the Progressive Labor Party knows that destroying this backward system demands multiracial unity among all workers: Asian, Latin, black and white. With this outlook, a multiracial group of 30 PLers flooded the march and completely changed the tone. We raised our banners and flags, chanting, "Black cop, white cop, all the same. Racist terror is the name of the game!" Other marchers quickly adopted our chants.

At one point, police attempted to block the road with metal barricades in the hopes that the march would cease. We pushed through and stopped them,

however, allowing the march to continue all the way to the police station.

Charging Liang with racist murder is important, but we must recognize that a few indictments will not change the essence of our oppressive capitalist system. The NYPD will continue to terrorize and imprison black and Latin youth, because kkkops are an integral part of the increasingly fascist U.S. As the bosses see themselves losing their ideological stranglehold on the working class, they are clamping down even harder and killing more workers. The only way to rid ourselves of racist police murders is to smash capitalism and fight for communism with PLP!✊

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